

the war in Iraq. Otherwise our national agenda will continue to be held captive in Iraq.

The Bible says, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free". The truth is, Iraq had nothing to do with 9/11, did not have weapons of mass destruction. The truth is that in the name of fighting terrorism, we are creating more terrorists.

"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." We must free ourselves from this war. We must reconcile with those who wrongly took us into Iraq. We must seek the truth.

FISCAL DISCIPLINE IS DRIVING DOWN THE DEFICIT

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have been working hard to exercise fiscal restraint and keep taxes low. These pro-growth policies are not only helping our economy grow at a fiery pace, they are helping drive down the Federal budget deficit as well.

This past Tuesday, the Wall Street Journal published a story I would like to quote. "Surging individual and corporate income tax receipts in May continued to help the Federal Government shrink the budget deficit to \$227 billion for the first eight months of the fiscal year, down 16.6 percent from the same period a year earlier. To date, much of the deficit reduction stems from taxes being paid by corporations, which are seeing increased profits, and from high-income individuals, who are paying taxes on capital gains."

Mr. Speaker, fiscal restraint and tax relief is boosting the economy and increasing tax revenues. The Treasury Department predicts that if these Republican-led trends continue, we will cut the Federal deficit in half well before President Bush's goal of 2009.

BOGUS RESOLUTION ON IRAQ

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, Republican leaders say that this unamendable, nonbinding, purely oratory resolution crafted behind closed doors is a referendum on the war on terror. And it is, but not in the way they characterize it.

It is a blanket endorsement of the failed policies, of the diversion of troops and resources from Afghanistan, and the effort to eradicate the Taliban, al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden. Remember him, the leader of the 9/11 plot? We have not heard much about Osama bin Laden. He is still out there.

It is about the redirection of the bulk of our military intelligence efforts to an unnecessary, preemptive war against the bloody, loathsome dictator who did not have weapons of mass destruction, was not involved in 9/11, was contained, and no direct threat to the United States.

Secretary Rumsfeld, Vice President CHENEY said we would be in and out of Iraq in 90 days. Three years, 3 months later, 2,500 dead, we are still there in the middle of a civil war.

A vote for this resolution is a vote to stay the course, unconditionally, indefinitely in Iraq, and leave our troops in the middle of that war. You should not support it. If you want to lead our troops out of the middle of a civil war in Iraq, redeploy and redirect these efforts to a more productive use of our Nation's resources and put an end to al Qaeda and the Taliban once and for all.

VICTORY IN IRAQ

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today is another significant day in the global war on terrorism, as the House will adopt the resolution supporting our troops to achieve victory over terrorism, to protect American families.

I know firsthand of the capabilities and competence of our troops, as a veteran with 31 years, service with the Army Reserves and National Guard. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I have visited our troops eight times in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. I know especially firsthand of the progress from my oldest son, who served with the National Guard for a year in Iraq, and this year I will have four sons in the military keeping me informed.

Today we can join with the Senate's 93-6 vote for success in Iraq, and I urge my colleagues to put aside partisanship to stand with our troops promoting freedom.

I want to especially commend Chairman HENRY HYDE for the clarity and vision of the resolution. As cochairman of the Victory in Iraq Caucus, I believe our choice is to defeat terrorism overseas, or we will face them again on the streets of America.

The only way to achieve peace is through victory. In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

CONSOLIDATION OF STUDENT LOANS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership is doing nothing to help with rising college education costs. The average cost for 4 years in college at a State university is now over \$40,000, and the cost to attend a private university now tops \$107,000.

These massive costs are far too much for many families to cover. Republicans have limited the availability of student aid, and both students and their parents are forced to take on huge loans in order to earn their college degree.

In fact, the average college senior is graduating this year with more than \$17,000 in student debt. Another problem looms for them, however, if they do not consolidate their loans before July 1st. That is when interest rates will nearly double on their Federal student loans.

Mr. Speaker, to avoid dramatic hikes in interest rates and to lock in rates as low as 4.75 percent, I strongly encourage students and graduates to consolidate their Federal loan payments before July 1. Consolidating your loans could save you thousands of dollars over the next decade.

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SUPPORT OUR TROOPS AND THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of visiting our troops in Iraq last month. I asked General Casey, the commander of our troops, how the political carping in Washington affected the troops. He responded, It doesn't really affect the troops so much, but it really grates on their families back home.

During Vietnam, I will never forget, as a young Air Force officer flying combat, how much we despised the politicians in Washington who were undermining the war effort. We visited the Iraqi leaders and Prime Minister al Maliki said, Welcome to a free and democratic Iraq. He said, Please tell the American people of our deep gratitude for the sacrifices that your sons and daughters have made to give us our freedom. He said, Please finish the job. Don't abandon us. Don't go backward.

Mr. Speaker, I don't question the patriotism of our opponents in this manner, just their judgment. The cause of freedom is too important to quit. The world and the terrorists are watching. Let's not lose our resolve.

GLOBAL WAR NOT WORTH THE COST

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the full day's debate yesterday was of no consequence because the premise of the resolution before us is a false one. It suggests that the goal of a secure, stable, and unified Iraq is an achievable one. It is not.

Iraq has always been a failed state because it was created artificially by the British to serve the British interest, not the Iraqi's interest. The fact is, when you have no tradition of civil institutions at the local level, the only way that a country can be governed is by a brutal secular dictator or by a repressive religious theocracy, and neither of those options is going to be in